

BOBAL



Allegedly native to the region of Requena (also found in Sagunto), its history dates back to, at least, the Middle Ages. This grape is typical of the high Levante areas. It was predominant in the Valencian region of Utiel Requena, where it represents nowadays more than 90% of the cultivated area. It corresponds to the variety authorized in the D.O. of Alicante, Cariñena and Utiel Requena.

Ampelographic characters: the bud has a brown-green apex with horizontal and almost upright growth habit. Medium-large pentagonal leaf, with dark green ribs and a cottony lower side. It presents 5 overlapping lobes at the level of the V-shaped petiolar sinus. The medium-large, conical and irregular cluster holds a spheroidal and slightly flattened medium-sized berry.

Cultural aptitude: vigorous and well resistant to drought. It bud-bursts a little later than other varieties, thus avoiding the risk of spring frosts. During very cold springs, it can lead to leaf redness and drops in yield and fertility due to its high vigour.

Training systems and pruning: adaptable to different pruning systems, preferring long ones on account of its low basal fertility.

Bud-burst period: average-late.

Ripening period: average-late.

Yield: rich.

Susceptibility to diseases and adverse conditions: averagely susceptible to powdery mildew. Despite having a large and compact cluster, it's more resistant to diseases than other varieties such as Tempranillo by virtue of its thicker berry skin and the more aerated foliage.

Enological potential: presents a relatively low alcohol content and high acidity (5.5 to 6.5 tartaric). Wines are characterized by an intense dark cherry colour with violet garnet hues. The bouquet reveals slightly herbaceous scents. On the palate, tannins and acidity stand out. Also used for production of quite fine rosé wines with fruity and fresh taste. Bobal wines are unsuitable for ageing; nonetheless they have always been considered the ideal component to improve other weaker wines colour.

Clones in propagation: VCR75, VCR77, VCR80.

Clones undergoing homologation procedure: VCR179, VCR292, VCR36, VCR37, VCR38, VCR39.



CULTIVATED AREA IN SPAIN

YEAR	1990	1999	2009
HECTARES	105,774	104,372	78,145

Vineyards in Castille - La Mancha

